

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-41. (Canceled)

42. (New) A method for diagnosing inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in a subject, said method comprising:

(a) determining an expression level of at least one gene product in a sample from said subject, wherein said gene product is an mRNA of a gene selected from the group consisting of macrophage inflammatory protein-2 β (GRO3), neutrophil lipocalin (HNL), elastase specific inhibitor (elafin), and type VI collagen α 3 chain (COL6A3); and

(b) comparing the expression level of said gene product in said subject to an expression level of said gene product in a healthy subject,

wherein a difference in the expression level of said gene product indicates that said subject has IBD or is at risk of developing IBD.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein said IBD is ulcerative colitis (UC).

44. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein said IBD is Crohn's disease (CD).

45. (New) The method of claim 42, comprising distinguishing between UC and CD.

46. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the expression level of said gene product differs by at least a factor of two.

47. (New) The method of claim **42**, wherein said sample is a needle biopsy core, a surgical resection sample, a bowel sample, lymph node tissue, or serum.

48. (New) The method of claim **42**, wherein the expression level of said gene product is determined using Northern blot analysis, reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction, in situ hybridization, or an array.

49. (New) The method of claim **48**, wherein said array comprises nucleic acid probes that specifically hybridize to said gene product and a substrate to which said nucleic acid probes are bound.

50. (New) The method of claim **49**, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of paper, membranes, filters, chips, pins, and glass.

51. (New) The method of claim **49**, wherein said nucleic acid probes are bound to said substrate by covalent bonds or hydrophobic interactions.

52. (New) The method of claim **49**, wherein said nucleic acid probes are spotted onto said substrate in a two-dimensional matrix or array.